

QUESTION TO AI:

I have a Compact car with a gas driven Engine. When I turn the ignition key the engine does not turn over and consequently will not start. Please detail a step-by-step procedure that I can follow to diagnose what is wrong with my car. For each possible problem that I may be having in starting my car please specify a process that I can follow to fix that specific problem.

ANSWER:

Sure, here's a step-by-step procedure you can follow to diagnose and fix the problem with your car:

1. Check the battery: The first step is to check the battery. Make sure that the battery terminals are clean and tight. If they are loose, tighten them using a wrench. Check the battery voltage using a voltmeter. If the voltage is below 12.4 volts, the battery may be weak and needs to be charged or replaced.
2. Check the starter: If the battery is good, the next step is to check the starter. Turn the key to the "on" position and listen for a clicking sound. If you hear a clicking sound, it means that the starter solenoid is engaging, but the starter motor is not turning. This could be due to a faulty starter motor or a bad starter solenoid.
3. Check the fuel system: If the starter is good, the next step is to check the fuel system. Remove the fuel cap and listen for a hissing sound, which indicates that the fuel pump is working. If you don't hear a hissing sound, it means that the fuel pump is not working and needs to be replaced.
4. Check the ignition system: If the fuel system is good, the next step is to check the ignition system. Remove a spark plug and inspect it for wear, fouling, or damage. If the spark plug is worn or fouled, replace it. If the spark plug is in good condition, check the ignition coil and spark plug wires for continuity using a multimeter. If there is no continuity, replace the faulty component.
5. Check the engine compression: If the ignition system is good, the next step is to check the engine compression. Remove the spark plugs and insert a compression tester into the spark plug hole. Crank the engine and note the reading on the tester. The compression reading should be between 120 and 180 psi. If the compression is low, it could be due to worn piston rings or a faulty head gasket.
6. Check the timing belt: If the compression is good, the next step is to check the timing belt. Remove the timing belt cover and inspect the belt for wear or damage. If the timing belt is worn or damaged, it needs to be replaced.

By following these steps, you should be able to diagnose and fix the problem with your car. If you are not comfortable with any of these steps, it's always best to take your car to a certified mechanic for further diagnosis and repairs.